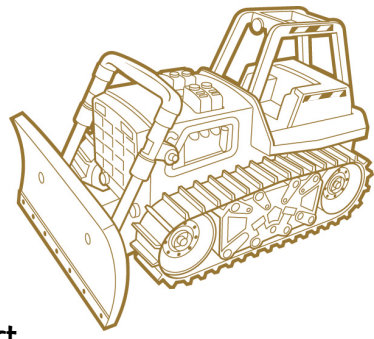


# Mats and blankets



## Where are they used?

Mats and blankets are used on steep slopes or in channels, where mulches are ineffective, to protect disturbed areas from erosion and to enhance seed growth.

## Techniques

Erosion control blankets are a mulch material surrounded by a plastic netting. The material inside the netting can be a variety of organic materials, such as coconut fibers or curled wood, and can also include synthetic fibers. Erosion control blankets are generally very effective, and their performance is strongly influenced by installation. Blankets must be secured to the ground using long staples, and care needs to be taken to ensure that water does not flow beneath the blanket.

Jute mats are sheets of woven jute fiber. Like erosion control blankets, they are installed using metal staples. Jute can be used as a channel protection device or to cover seeds on slopes. Jute degrades over time and should be used as a protection for seeds as they grow, not as a substitute for seeding.

Turf reinforcement matting is usually a geotextile matrix. Matting is expensive, but is the most effective choice for channels. Mats are laid on the soil surface and covered with topsoil and seed. They stabilize the soil and hold seeds in place.

## Limitations and challenges

Blankets and mats are expensive. Mulches, which are much cheaper, perform well in flat areas. The greatest challenge to successfully implementing blankets and mats is installing them correctly. Their field performance can be erratic, primarily due to the success in anchoring the blankets or mats to the soil.

## Innovations and improvements

"Spray-on blankets," also called fiber bonded matrices, are a fast-growing new technique. They cost about \$1.50/sy and preliminary testing shows that they perform similarly to erosion control blankets.

# Fast Facts - Mats and blankets

Approximate Cost: \$1.50 / sq. yard

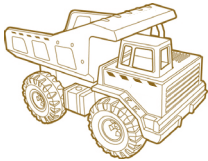
Effectiveness	Low	Mod	High
Erosion/Sediment Control			X
Long-Term Pollutant Reduction	X		
Habitat/Stream Protection	X		
Ease of Application	Difficult	Average	Easy
Installation	X		
Maintenance		X	

## Limitations

Flat slopes (method is not cost effective)



Left: Erosion control blanket in a channel area.



Find more construction site educational materials at:

[cleanwatermn.org/MS4toolkit](http://cleanwatermn.org/MS4toolkit)



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